

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 /070 W  
-----170134Z 019859 /64

R 161340Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8037  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
USINT BAGHDAD  
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2671

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, KU, IZ  
SUBJECT: KUWAIT-IRAQI BORDER DISPUTE

REF: KUWAIT 5961

1. DURING MEETING WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AND MINISTER  
OF STATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS ABDUL-AZIZ HUSAIN MAY 16 ON  
OTHER MATTERS, I REFERRED TO MAY 14 STATEMENT BY IRAQI  
FONMIN SADOON HAMMADI REGARDING IRAQ BORDER PROBLEM WITH  
KUWAIT. IRAQI FONMIN HAD STATED THAT NEXT MOVE ON  
BORDER QUESTION WAS UP TO GOK WHICH HAD NOT RESPONDED TO  
IRAQI PROPOSAL SUBMITTED ON THIS MATTER. I ALSO NOTED  
MINISTER HUSAIN'S DENIAL REPORTED IN MAY 16 PRESS THAT KUWAIT  
HAD FAILED TO ANSWER PROPOSAL BY IRAQ REGARDING BORDER.  
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ACCORDING TO KUWAITI PRESS, HUSAIN HAD ASSERTED THAT  
"KUWAITI POSITION WAS ELABORATED IN BOTH ORAL AND WRITTEN  
FORM" DURING RECENT VISIT TO KUWAIT OF IRAQI DELEGATION  
LED BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR IZZAT IBRAHIM. I ASKED  
HUSAIN WHAT WAS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE IRAQI PROPOSAL  
TO WHICH HAMMADI HAD REFERRED.

2. HUSAIN CONFIRMED HIS REMARKS REPORTED BY KUWAITI PRESS AND, IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, EXPLAINED RECENT DISCUSSIONS OF BORDER QUESTION ALONG FOLLOWING LINES. HE SAID THAT AN EARLIER IRAQI PROPOSAL SUGGESTED THAT KUWAIT CEDE TO IRAQ ISLANDS OF WARBAH AND BUBIYAN (WHICH IRAQ ACTUALLY CONSIDERED AS IRAQI TERRITORY ANYWAY) AS CONDITION FOR AGREEMENT ON BORDER DEMARCATION. WHEN GOK REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL OUTRIGHT, IRAQ ADVANCED PROPOSITION THAT KUWAIT LEASE TO IT WARBAH ISLAND, NORTHERN HALF OF BUBIYAN ISLAND (ALONG CHANNEL LEADING TO IRAQI PORT OF UMM QASR), AND SMALL STRIP OF TERRITORY ALONG COAST BELOW UMM QASR ACROSS FROM WARBAH ISLAND. GOK REJECTED THIS PROPOSITION AS WELL STATING THAT IT WOULD NOT AGREE EITHER TO CEDE OR LEASE ANY PART OF BUBIYAN ISLAND. IT NOTED THAT ISLAND IS MAINLY SWAMP LAND AND IS NOT USEFUL FOR ANY PRACTICAL PURPOSE. GOK, HOWEVER, DID OFFER TO LEASE WARBAH ISLAND AND STRIP OF ADJACENT TERRITORY MENTIONED ABOVE FOR 100 YEAR PERIOD PROVIDED THERE WAS PRIOR IRAQI AGREEMENT TO BORDERS AS DELINEATED UNDER AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN AMIR AND PRESIDENT AL-BAKR WHEN THEY WERE BOTH PRIME MINISTERS IN 1963. THIS IS WHERE SITUATION STILL STANDS WITH GOK.

3. HUSAIN TOLD ME THAT RECENT VISIT BY IRAQI MINISTER OF INTERIOR HAS RESULTED IN SOME MOVEMENT, SINCE, AS A RESULT, AN IRAQI MILITARY OFFICER IS SCHEDULED TO COME TO KUWAIT SOON TO CONSULT WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ON BORDER DEMARCATION PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH RECENT IRAQI BORDER INCURSIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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